



The *Overview of the Health of Utah Children* report provides information on selected child health measures from the Health Status Survey. The report is intended to provide a brief overview of each of the measures. For the purposes of this report, some measures have been simplified such that only one level is reported. For instance, each respondent's general health status was originally reported on a five-point scale (excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor). The simplified measure combines the "fair" and "poor" health categories and reports them as one level, those with fair or poor health.

It is also common for a measure to be reported for only a subpopulation of Utah children. For instance, the percentage of children restrained while in a vehicle was reported only for children aged eight and under because guidelines recommend placing children aged four and under in an infant seat and children aged four to eight in a booster seat. The subpopulation of inference is indicated in the title of the figure or table.

Each measure is depicted on two pages. The first page displays a bar chart of the information by sex and age group. The second page provides a reference table. Reference tables for the measure typically report an overall percentage for the entire population of Utah children, and for that population by sex, age group, and age group by sex. When the sample size allowed for it, the measures are also presented by local health district. Additional comparisons for each measure may be found in that measure's detailed health status survey report, or by requesting it through the Center for Health Data at the address listed inside the front cover of this report.

The information in the tables and figures is presented for different sex, age, and geographic groups. By presenting the information in this way, it is not meant to imply that differences are caused by a person's sex, age, area of residence, or any other variable in the survey. Data collected in a single-point-in-time survey will never provide sufficient evidence of a cause and effect relationship between two variables. For instance, a relationship between obesity and overall ill health has been observed. The data do not suggest whether being obese causes ill health, being ill causes one to be obese, or whether some third variable, such as a chronic condition, causes a person to be obese and to experience overall ill health.

The two most frequently used columns in the graphs and text are 'Percentage of Children' and 'Number of Children' under the larger heading of "Survey Estimates of Children..." These columns indicate the percentage of children and the estimated number of children in Utah, based on the number of survey responses and the population estimates for that subgroup, for the measure.

It should be noted that this report is a limited overview of the Health Status Survey results for children, and not a complete overview of the health status of Utah children. There is other relevant information that should be taken into account in order to gain perspective on Utah children's overall health status, such as leading causes of death, trends in hospitalization for various conditions, infectious disease rates, characteristics of mothers and newborns, injury deaths and hospitalizations, and many other factors. Some of this information can be found in other Center for Health Data publications and on Utah's Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH) at <http://ibis.health.utah.gov>.